

OLD TIME SERIES

Interview with Ralph Luther

(Indexed by Wayne Warkentin)

Date July 5, 1989

- 004 Speaking begins
- 020 Guest is Ralph H. Luther, 1754 I Street, Eureka.
- 025 Born in Eureka in 1881.
- 026 Had brought along Daily Humboldt Newspaper from Jan. 19, 1890.
- 040 Son of Christopher Luther, who was from Switzerland and came to America at the age of five. He then came to California by ox train and became involved in mining.
- 050 Christopher Luther moved to Humboldt County and purchased a stock ranch near Ferndale.
- 055 Christopher Luther and Joseph Russ Sr., opened a butcher shop on G Street in Eureka at 3rd and G Streets. After a year Luther sold out to Russ.
- 069 Christopher Luther had three sons and one daughter.
- 089 Ralph Luther had brought a, circa 1874, photo of Central Creamery in Ferndale.
- 095 Description of early butcher shop in Photo.
- 106 Humboldt County lumber was shipped to the Hawaiian Islands for coconuts, pineapples, and rock ballast.
- 110 Ralph Luther went to the Hawaiian Islands at age of eight.
- 126 The old Humboldt County jail was on Second Street between J and K.
- 129 Humphrey Brown was sheriff.
- 140 Bodin was hanged at the old county jail in about 1893 or 1894.
- 151 Ralph Luther worked in his father's butcher shop.
- 159 Livery stable was at First and F Streets.
- 164 Wages were One dollar a day - overalls cost 20c - 40c per pair, leather shoes were \$1.00 - \$1.50 per pair. A suit cost \$12 - \$14.
- 178 C.B. Jackson's Clothing Store was on E Street.
- 187 Horse drawn trolleys went from Second Street to California Street to Myrtle Avenue, then returned from the end of Myrtle via H and E Streets.
- 200 McGilvey and Pat O'Ryan, father of Mayor John O'Ryan, were mule skimmers on the trolley.
- 220 Naming of businesses advertising on the trolleys - location also given.
- 250 Reading of advertisements from 1890 Daily Humboldt Newspaper.
- 270 A drugstore was in the basement of the Vance House.
- 280 Steamers brought in fresh oysters three times per week.
- 32 Names of Steamers
- 285 The Occidental Hotel was on Second Street between C and D Streets.



- 290 The Humboldt County Bank was at Second and G Streets diagonally across from the Vance Hotel. Mr. Chamberlain, Mr. McCann, and Henry Schwab worked for the bank. H.H. Buhne was Vice-president. The bank was open from 9 - 3 p.m.
- 300 W.H. Johnston's Hardware store was at Second and E Streets.
- 302 H.H. Buhne Company was on First Street between E and F Streets.
- 311 Mr. Rosia had a front store and fish market - a carton of shrimp cost 10c.
- 326 William Goetz sold ice cream and candy.
- 340 The Steamer Humboldt, owned by Mayor Richard Sweasey carried mail and Wells Fargo Express.
- 344 Schedule and description of the Humboldt, which travelled between San Francisco and the E Street wharf in Eureka.
- 352 Cabin passage cost \$6.00.
- 353 Pacific Lumber Company Railroad connected with the Eel River and Eureka R.R. at Alton Junction.
- 356 John M. Vance give children free train rides in boxcars and flatcars.
- 361 The Pioneer School was at the later site of Eureka City Hall.
- 365 Winship School was at the site of the Auditorium.
- 367 Ralph Luther worked for Mr. Skinner at the Russ Butcher Shop. then worked for the City of Eureka Water Department taking care of pumps.